2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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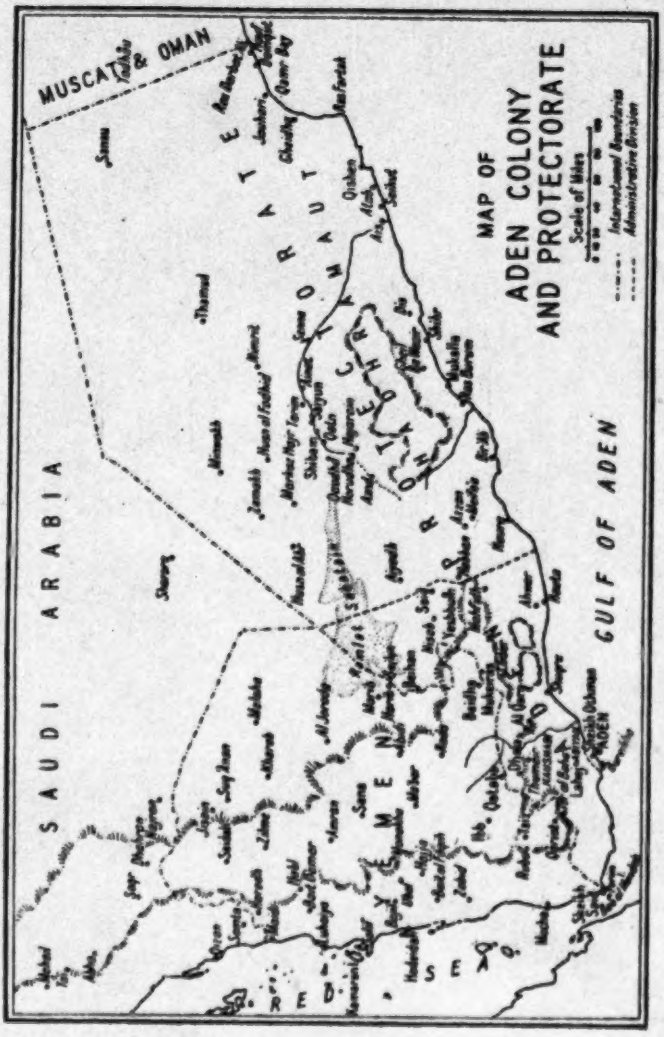

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Early Days

narrow confines of the rocky headland on which Aden lies into the interior of the Protectorate; a land of hills and deserts and of wild and warlike people as lovable as they are childlike and wayward. I have met many people who have passed through Aden and they have all disliked it, while at the same time I have met almost as many people who have lived there and they have all spoken with affection of the place. Arabia is a hard mistress who conquers slowly but, having conquered, never, never relaxes her hold, nor does the victim wish for release.

The Colony of Aden, as it is known today, it was called the Settlement when I first went there as a Government servant, is quite a small area only 75 square miles in extent. In appearance it resembles a lobster's claw, a maimed lobster, with one half of the claw shorter than the other. The claw is open and between the two halves lies the harbour. On one side of the harbour is the peninsula of Aden proper, and on the other the peninsula of Little Aden, now re-named Bureikha—just two promontories jutting out into the Gulf of Aden. The one on which the town of Aden stands is connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus, the other is almost part of the mainland. Both these promontories are hilly and are connected to each other by a narrow strip of plain running round the northern side of the harbour from Little Aden, widening considerably to include the town of Sheikh Othman and the village of Imad and eventually reaching the sea again at the Khormaksar beach some eight miles to the east of Aden town. The boundary of the Colony has been demarcated and has not been in dispute for many years. The island of Perim, which lies at the bottom end of the Red Sea, is part of the Colony, why, precisely, I have never been able to understand. Perim was at one time a relatively important coaling station, with a garrison of Indian Army troops, but now that coal has been superseded by oil it is deserted, except for the personnel of the two important lighthouses, a few fishermen, and a detachment of Armed Police from the Colony Police Force.

The main commercial centre of the Colony lies in the midst of the old volcano and is appropriately called "Crater". The trading and maritime suburbs of Tawahi (Steamer Point to

passengers from ships) and Ma'alla are built on the northern and western slopes of Jebel Shamsan, the highest peak of the volcanic range of hills surrounding Crater. Jebel Shamsan is quite a presentable hill, for it is just over 1,700 ft. in height and was at one time adorned with a signal station.

The isthmus which joins Aden to the mainland is called Khormaksar and is as flat as the proverbial pancake. During the monsoon winds of summer it is a hellish place of drifting sand and it is here that the Royal Air Force have their station; the military and civil airport are also here. Close by the airport are the houses of the more senior civil and military officials and a few ordinary folk, who are, on the whole, much better paid than the officials, but of course not nearly so important. Originally there were only two rows of houses, one of brown houses and the other of white houses, and since they were inhabited mainly by officials, they were, not unnaturally, known as Downing Street and Whitehall. Now there are rows and rows of houses, all variations of the usual colonial box theme in architecture, incredibly ugly but reasonably comfortable, but I am glad to say Whitehall and Downing Street are still the really fashionable roads.

At the northern and land ward end of the isthmus there is the town of Sheikh Othman with its pleasant gardens so well known to many tourists. Sheikh Othman was also, until quite recently, well known in a less desirable way to visitors and residents alike, but in modern times morals seem to have improved, and while the gardens have been enlarged, the other attractions have been reduced. The town was not acquired by any splendid feat of arms, but by a purely commercial transaction. It was bought from the Sultan of Lahej in 1882. Aden, on the other hand, was invested in 1839 by an armed expedition from India, carried in ships of the Indian Navy. The reason for this expedition is said to have been to punish an outrage which had occurred when the crew of an English ship wrecked on the coast near Aden were maltreated. In point of fact the probabilities are that the reason for our somewhat drastic action was because we wished to control the only good harbour between India and Egypt and use it as a coaling station

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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for our ships. As negotiations with the Lahej Sultan, who then owned the Aden Peninsula, had broken down, the deadlock was solved by force. The original owner of Little Aden was the Akrabi Sheikh, a quite unimportant person whose minute territory is surrounded on three sides by his infinitely larger and more powerful neighbour Lahej. Whether or not the Akrabi Sheikh was entitled to sell is a matter which has occupied the minds of the Sultans of Lahej from time to time even up to the present day, but sell the Sheikh did in 1888 and buy we did, and that for all practical purposes is that.

Aden has been safe from foreign aggressors since we ourselves filled that role in 1839, except for a brief period during the First World War when a part of what is now the Colony was occupied by Turkish forces. This rather curious state of affairs came about in this way: Lahej, the name usually given to the capital of the Sultanate of the same name, the premier of all the Protectorate States by virtue of the importance of that State combined with the fact that the Lahej Treaty was the first to be concluded in the year 1839, is only some 17 miles to the north of Sheikh Othman. In 1915 the Turkish wolf came down on the Aden fold by way of the donkey-cum-camel tracks from Taiz in the Yemen. The then Sultan of Lahej, a good friend of ours, marched against the common foe with what tribesmen he could rally to his banner and at the same time he very properly called on the General Officer Commanding the Aden Garrison for assistance. In Aden there was, of course, tremendous excitement as a column was hastily organised and assembled at Sheikh Othman. It was the most ill-fated column that ever set out; there were incredible delays at the start, with the result that the troops did not begin their advance until the sun was well up. It was the height of summer and the 17 miles across which they had to move on foot were sandy and devoid of practically all forms of cover. The water for the column was carried on camels; the camels ran away shortly after the start. Whether this was of their own volition or whether they were encouraged to do so by treacherous drivers is a matter of opinion, for no records of that disastrous march are known to exist. The troops continued their advance and they went on

Aden

000 Just two sentences, but very revealing. What business was it of mine; what indeed? It was precisely the answer I should have given myself if I had been asked by a stranger a similar question on any day when I was feeling a trifle irritable. Also it was the exact opposite of the type of answer I should have received from an Indian, and it was then that I began to realise that the Arabs were fundamentally different from the majority of Asiatics I had met up to that time.

632 My first real trip into the Protectorate came in 1932 when I
0361 drove to Dhala, the capital of the Amirate of the same name. Dhala, which continues to figure rather largely in the daily Press in this country as the result of Yemeni incursions into the area, is a small, rather uninteresting and rather sinister-looking town of dirty grey houses which climb up the side of a hill.
[133] The Dhala plateau is about 4,500 ft. high and is surrounded by
[648] hill features, the finest of which is Jebel Jihaf, a magnificent massif 8,000 ft. high. The town is but a few miles from the Yemen border and raiding by the Yemen was by no means uncommon even in those days.

000 I stayed in the old castle which overlooks the town and crowns the hill, and well I remember having to leave the car and walk the last few hundred feet from where the road ended, up the steep footpath to the castle entrance. My luggage and that of my companion was unloaded by my servants, and the problem of carrying it up the hill was solved by a total stranger who called rather peremptorily to a half-dozen dreary passers-by, who I remember noticing had long side curls, not unlike the present-day Teddy boys. These dismal-looking fellows stopped without protest and at once seized the baggage and bore it off up the hill. When I reached the top myself and had exchanged preliminary courtesies with the Amir's representative, I inquired how much I should give the bearers, what amount would be a suitable reward for their labour. I was young and I had not been among the people of the Protectorate before and was, therefore, inexperienced in these matters. The Amir's representative looked surprised.

"Nothing," he said.

"But I must," said I.

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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astonishing. He was certainly not an indifferent shot with a rifle and surprised Bill Goode on one occasion by shooting a chikor (hill partridge) with a ·303 Lee-Enfield rifle when the bird was actually in flight. He was acting for his uncle, the old Amir Nasser, who, since the murderous attack at Christmas time in 1950 on Major Basil Seager, C.M.G., O.B.E., at that time British Agent for the Western Protectorate, was living in retirement at Lahej.

Once we had got up the rather difficult final pass on to the plateau the last few miles of the drive through the low hills were quite delightful. The air was cool and the country green, and the Naib's Tribal Guards and tribesmen on the hilltops guarding our passage and firing shots of welcome in the air as we drove past were a romantic and picturesque sight.

We went straight to the Political Officer's house a mile or so from the old grey town of Dhala, which looked as sinister as ever as it straggled up the hillside to the ancient castle on the summit. There I met the notables and tribal leaders who had gathered in strength, while the guns of the castle slowly—oh, so slowly—fired a seventeen-gun salute. The guns were very old, and it was more dangerous to be behind them than in front of them. They had a tendency to explode if too much black powder was used in the charge, and there had been a nasty accident some few months earlier at the time of the Idd celebrations which had reduced the number of guns and gunners available for ceremonial purposes.

After the tribesmen and the notables had taken their departure, the Naib and I, with the Political Officer, went into the latter's office and talked about local affairs. Among other things the Naib deplored the kindness shown by the Imam to the Amir Haidera, his cousin and the son of the old Amir Nasser, who had been a power in the land until his conduct had become quite outrageous and a climax had been reached when he seized the Treasury and revolted against his father. We took action to bring him to reason, but he fled across the frontier and found refuge in the Yemen town of Qataba, from which place he never ceased to intrigue in the Amirate. Just before sunset the Naib said farewell and went off across the plain to his house just

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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nominated to succeed him as Sultan. Thus there came to the head of affairs in the premier State a young man, well educated, much travelled and full of promise. During the time I was Governor a great deal of progress was made in Lahej by the new Sultan, who as His Highness Sir Ali bin Abdul Karim, K.B.E., has taken considerable interest in the political development of the area and the economic prosperity of his State. Lahej was the first of the States to introduce a Legislative Council and now it is one of the major cotton growing areas, being blessed with the only perennial river in the whole of the western part of the Protectorate.

LOWER YAFA

131 Beyond the rich agricultural lands of the northern part of the Abiyan plain the Lower Yafa State stretches far up into the mountains to the highlands of Upper Yafa, a country of wild and hardy mountaineers who are more independent and individualistic than any other of the Protectorate tribes. The Lower Yafa State has two capitals, one in the lowland plains at Al Hasn and the other in the hills at Al Qara. This latter town is quite the most extraordinary one that I have seen anywhere in the world. It is built on the circular limestone cap of a very steep hill which looks like a truncated cone, and the town can be reached only by two very rough tracks, up which camels and donkeys can, with difficulty, make their way.

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I was determined to visit Al Qara, partly out of sheer curiosity and partly because I was anxious to increase our influence in even the most remote areas of the Protectorate. Having obtained the willing agreement of the Sultan, the arrangements were made and my party, which consisted of the Director of Agriculture, the Director of the Protectorate Health Service, a Geologist who was making a survey of the Protectorate, a Political Officer or Assistant Adviser who was in charge of the expedition, and a personal friend, covered the first part of the journey by car from Aden along the Khormaksar beach and across the Abiyan plain to where the Bana river emerges from the hills. There we spent the night at a

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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a rather more inferior donkey, and seemed to hold some sort of quasi-political appointment in the State; he spoke Urdu, which he had learnt during his police service in Aden. He and I conversed together in that language to the irritation of Europeans and Arabs alike who could not understand what we were saying. Perhaps it was as well. The Jemadar and I had quite an amusing time. The rest of the party followed on behind, with the doctor bringing up the rear after the baggage animals, ready to deal with any casualties.

We always started the daily march early in the morning after the lightest of meals and moved steadily forward until midday, when we would halt to rest and feed the animals and ourselves; just before sunset, we would select a camp site among the terraced fields at the side of the valley and a hot meal would be prepared by the cooks, while our servants set up our camp-beds in the open and we relaxed on rugs spread on the bare ground. Sleep came easily.

[361] On the last day as we approached our destination, we could see Al Qara gleaming white far above us on its hilltop and by mid-morning we were near the base of the hill. Just before noon [291] we crossed a small rise and there on the flat ground immediately [302] below the hill thousands of tribesmen were drawn up in lines awaiting our arrival. Blue kilts, indigo-dyed bodies, bobbed [411] hair, rough leather sandals and the inevitable armoury of rifle, cartridge belt and silver sheathed dagger; they were as splendid [643] as they were unexpected in that wild and seemingly sparsely populated country. Sultan Muhammed and I moved forward on foot to greet the Sultan who, dressed in a purple plush frock coat, a blue and yellow striped kilt and a head cloth of the same colours, was busily engaged acting as ringmaster in the midst of this amazing scene. Like his men he carried a rifle, and as we approached welcoming shots were fired by him and his immediate entourage and replied to by his son and my party. The Sultan and I exchanged the customary greeting and shook hands, and then I shook hands with the tribal leaders and walked down the ranks of tribesmen.

Up to this point everything had been remarkably well ordered and controlled, but when the Sultan who was by

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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with us and was now returning to his work somewhere on the Abiyan plain. I had no armed escort from the Government Guards. The safety of my companions and myself rested with the Sultan who was fully prepared to accept his responsibility. In fact, if I had attempted to take an armed escort on this particular trip, we would almost certainly have never got to Al Qara at all. The independent-minded tribesmen would undoubtedly have resisted the movement of armed men into their country and we should have been faced with the alternative of turning back or having to force a passage. Not really an alternative because I had not, in those days, a sufficient force at my disposal to overcome spirited resistance from thousands of tribesmen in that tangle of hills.

QUAITI

Both during my term of office as Governor and during my earlier periods of service in Aden I paid frequent visits to Mukalla, the capital of the Quaiti State in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, which nestles below a high hill feature on which stand the now empty watch towers that in days gone by protected the wealthy merchants of the town from bedouin raiders. Mukalla has a fascinating little harbour and the town is grouped attractively round a bay filled with the bluest water that I have ever seen. Viewed from the broad beach outside the ancient gateway as the sun is setting, the town and the hill behind it are suffused with a golden light, and the slender white minarets of the Mosques are a delicate shade of pink. It is really beautiful.

Here in Mukalla are not only the business houses of the merchants who trade with the Far East and Aden and supply the Hadhramaut with its innumerable wants, but also the palace of the Sultan, the British Residency, and the Government Offices of the Quaiti administration. Outside the walls of the town are the depot of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion and the barracks of the Mukalla Regular Army and the Quaiti Armed Constabulary. Here also is the Bedouin Boys' School, a boarding school for the sons of tribesmen run by the State on the

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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inexhaustible energy had reduced me to a physical and nervous wreck—and I was the younger man.

Near Mukalla to the east beyond the landing ground at Riyan is the collegiate town of Ghil-Ba-Wazir, so called by me because it seemed to consist of nothing but schools surrounded by a few fields of Hammumi tobacco which normally was exported to Egypt via Aden. Primary schools and a large State Intermediate School with a considerable boarding establishment catered for the youth of Mukalla and the more advanced pupils from all over the State. The masters, who were local men or Sudanese on contract, always left me with an impression of keenness, competence and contentment. From Ghil-Ba-Wazir the more promising pupils went on to Aden College or the Technical Institute in Aden, or to a Secondary School in the Sudan, depending on the inclination of the parents or of the Mukalla Government if they were financing the boys' further education.

Up in the vast open spaces of the northern limits of the State, survey parties of Petroleum Concessions Ltd. moved farther and farther into territory which was practically unknown to Europeans, on their ceaseless quest for oil, spurred on by recent increases in the cost of their prospecting licence. As these parties pushed their way northwards so did similar parties from the Arabian-American Oil Company at Dhahran on the Persian Gulf in Saudi Arabia move steadily southward with their portable drilling rigs drawn by great tractors and their air-conditioned living caravans, across the great yellow sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali.

The frontier became of considerable importance, much more so than it had ever been before and we found it advisable to exercise a greater degree of control over our tribes than had been necessary or desirable in the past. The Sultan was concerned about the peace of these northern marches, and, fearing an act of aggression, felt that steps should be taken to safeguard the well at Thamud, the only available water for many miles around. This was done by building a fort, constructing a landing strip and flying in a garrison of soldiers of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion. Later, similar measures were taken over to

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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new displacing the old is an inevitable process and provided it is done at a reasonable pace need not be disturbing and is often imperceptible. It is the speed of change which matters, and that is what caused the trouble in the Protectorate. In England the change from horse-drawn transport to motor transport took twenty years or more and there was ample time for readjustment. In Aden it took as many days from the time a new major road was open to motor traffic, and the unemployed camel men sat nursing their rifles and wondering how to prevent their animals and themselves from starving. It was not long before they noticed the weapon in their hands and commenced to use it to drive the lorries off the roads. The State and Political Authorities intervened before too much damage was done and negotiations resulted in agreements which restricted the use of lorries to named kinds of merchandise, and so time was gained for readjustment.

The Eastern Aden Protectorate was more affected than the Western by road development and on more than one occasion troops had to be used to persuade the camel men and their friends to be sensible and not to interfere with the lorry traffic which might have had very serious consequences. The Wadi Hadhramaut, that vast cut through the limestone plateau of the Jöl filled with palm groves and white-walled towns, peopled by the most astute and the hardest business men in the world, was subject to droughts which twice in living memory had led to famine: the reason for this had been that the whole irrigation system depended on the availability of bullocks to draw water from the shallow wells and when, during the droughts, the corn crops had failed, the animals had either to be fed on seed grain or be left to die of starvation; in the former case it meant that when the rains did come, there was no seed to sow, in the latter that there were no animals to draw water. The solution was to eliminate the dependence on bullocks and make available to farmers and date garden owners small diesel pumps with which to irrigate their land. They paid cash for the pumps if they could, or if they couldn't they put down a deposit and paid the balance in monthly instalments. A maintenance service, based on a central workshop, which had been set

3:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY OF ADEN FOR 1938

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I. GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY

Geography

131 The Colony of Aden is situated on the south coast of Arabia and is bounded on the seaward side by the Gulf of Aden and on the landward side by the Aden Protectorate. It comprises:—

101 361 133 (a) The peninsula, an extinct volcano in the crater of which lies the old town of Aden which is the main commercial and residential centre of the Colony. On the north shore is the modern harbour suburb of Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area usually referred to as Steamer Point, a large part of which is leased in perpetuity to the Air Ministry with the exceptions of the areas occupied by Government House, the Eastern Telegraph Company's buildings and the Political Secretary's house. To the North of Tawahi lies the dhow harbour and the village of Maala.

(b) The isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(c) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad and Buraikha and

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Fakum, the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula, are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

Description

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jabel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet (525 m.) high and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies westward and north-west of the peninsula. Crater, the main Arab town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour and lies in the crater of the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat sandy plain which is barely ½ mile wide at its narrowest point near the peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Aden Settlement, but except during the cold weather months produce is very limited. There are also privately-owned date palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Perim

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandab, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet (65 m.) high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the subsoil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. Perim was at one time of importance as a coaling station, and the Eastern Telegraph Company and Lloyd's were represented there. There are now no commercial concerns on the island.

Climate

There is a third-class meteorological observatory in Aden under the superintendence of the Medical Officer in charge of the European General Hospital. The minimum day temperature recorded was 69·1 in February, 1938, and the maximum was 101·5 in July, 1938. The rainfall totalled 1·59 centimetres. Hot sandy winds prevailed as usual during the south-west monsoon. There are no crops in Aden, which depends on supplies from other countries, principally India and the interior.

The climate of Aden from October to April, i.e., during the north-east monsoon, is cool and pleasant, especially from November to February. During the south-west monsoon, i.e. in July and August, strong winds prevail which give some relief from the damp airless heat of May, June and September. Sandstorms are apt to occur in the months of May, June, July and August. These come from a northerly direction usually a short time before sunset and are often

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DESCRIPTION.

The Aden peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet (525 m.) high and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies westward and north-west of the peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valleys between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat sandy plain on which has been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Naval wireless station, the Aden Protectorate Levy lines, and the golf course. Owing to lack of building space at Tawahi, dwelling-houses for senior Government officials have recently been constructed here. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Aden Settlement. There are also privately-owned date palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Settlement.

PERIM.

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Climate.

There is a third-class meteorological observatory in Aden under the superintendence of the Medical Officer in charge of the European General Hospital. The maximum day temperature recorded was 100·3 in June, and the minimum was 68·1 in December. The rainfall totalled 8 centimetres. Hot sandy winds prevailed as usual during the south-west monsoon. There are no crops in Aden, which depends on supplies from other countries, principally India and the interior.

The climate of Aden from October to April, i.e. during the north-west monsoon, is cool and pleasant, especially from November to February. During the south-west monsoon, i.e. from June to September, a hot sandy wind known as Shimal prevails on the peninsula, but on its western side the breezes are

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mumps occur from time to time and are treated in the infectious diseases hospital on Maala plain.

A small lunatic asylum is situated outside the walls of the Civil Hospital and is administered from it.

The port health work is a very important feature in the medical and sanitary organization of the Colony. The proximity of Aden by sea to ports which are subject to periodic infections makes the careful inspection of vessels a vital matter, and in addition the services of the Port Health Officer are in constant demand to assist the masters of the many cargo ships carrying no doctor which use the port. Passengers and members of the crew requiring hospital treatment are accommodated in the European General Hospital or, if the illness is an infectious one, in suitable isolation. It is usual to have patients of four or five different nationalities, European and Eastern, in the wards at the same time, which is a compliment to the hospital and indicative of the service it renders to shipping, but tests very thoroughly the linguistic capabilities of the staff.

During 1937 2,274 bills of health were issued to mechanically-propelled vessels and 1,222 to native craft.

V.—HOUSING.

General.

Houses in Aden are of stone masonry, except at Sheikh Othman where mostly they are built with sun-dried bricks.

In every case particular attention is paid to efficient lighting and ventilation. Each residential quarter is provided with proper sanitary accommodation and kitchen which are suitably detached from the living-rooms by large and open court-yards or by large shafts open to the sky.

Most of the houses are provided with floors made of cement-concrete; this is insisted upon in all new proposals, and the height of the houses is never allowed to exceed the width of the streets.

Back-to-back houses are not allowed; a few still exist in the village of Maala, but these are being eradicated as opportunity occurs.

At the rear of all houses there are open spaces from 5 ft. to 10 ft. wide. They are called sweeper passages, and the sanitary accommodations abut on to these spaces and drain into them. Each such passage is connected with the main drainage system in all divisions of the Settlement except Maala, where it is connected with a big soak-away pit.

With these aims every building plan is carefully scrutinized by the Public Health Department before it is allowed to be constructed.

Most of the dwelling-houses within the Settlement limits are well ventilated and lighted and are satisfactory from a public health point of view. Endeavours are being made to effect an improvement in the architectural standard of the buildings.

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RAS BORADLI, ADEN

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THE CRESCENT, TAWAHI, ADEN, SHOWING MAIN SHOPPING CENTRES AND PRINCIPAL BUSINESS FIRMS

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PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises: 131

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maala.

(*b*) The isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area. 361

(*d*) The island of Perim.

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula. 133 361

The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there. 211 215

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation. 317

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky 133

S:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Quaiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Quaiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

During 1947 the local government of the Colony remained vested in the two Township Authorities, the larger being vested in the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embracing the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 21,000 persons, all non-European, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area covered by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket-making and lime-burning, and who look to the built-up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

The members of the Boards which administer the local government of these two areas are at present appointed by the Governor. The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings to superintend the various municipal services such as the control of markets, the maintenance of public health and sanitary services and roads, the provision of recreational facilities for the public and the control of building operations. It has still been found necessary to maintain foodstuff stalls in the public markets in order to ensure that the majority of the population can purchase essential foodstuffs, such as sugar and rice, at Government controlled prices.

During the year the Authorities opened a new market for petty traders and hawkers, a new public bathing-place where baths, with soap and towels provided, can be secured at a nominal fee, and a new cattle stable to accommodate 350 milk cows at Sheikh Othman.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises:

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(*b*) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

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The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation.

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. In the past there has been pearl fishing, but this year no pearl fishing contract was taken.

There is a small Police detachment in the island together with medical staff and lighthouse staff.

There is no natural water supply on the island; sea-water distilling plant provides sufficient water for the supply of the population and for the occasional ship which comes in for emergency water supplies.

Up to the end of 1948 Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication by marine cable. The cable became unserviceable in 1948, and it was decided not to repair it. It is likely that communication will soon be established by wireless. A R.A.F. airplane makes a flight to the island once weekly and carries mail and passengers from Aden.

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The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings in the exercise of their functions of superintending various services of municipal character, such as control of markets, maintenance of public health and sanitary

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

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Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Township Authority, and there are some privately-owned date-palms there. Hiswa also has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony. 241

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward at its southern extremity is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. It possesses a good small harbour on the south-west side, with an entrance 860 yards in breadth, and a small air landing ground. 133 134 368 504

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

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(d) The island of Perim.

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361 turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

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367 aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate
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8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden/N,M1

Up to the end of 1948, Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication with Perim by marine cable, which became unserviceable in that year, and it was decided not to repair it. A wireless set is maintained by the Police.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with Her Majesty's Government. In both the Western and the Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent.

The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

In addition under the provision of the Kamaran Order in Council, 1949, the Governor of the Colony is also Governor of Kamaran, a small island about 200 miles north of Perim on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. This island was formerly the site of a quarantine station but the station has been reduced to a care and maintenance basis.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are two local Government bodies in the Colony. The larger is known as Fortress Township Authority and the area governed embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population estimated to be 80,000 to 100,000. This area includes the Military and the R.A.F. establishments. The other is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 30,000 persons, nearly all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found small coastal villages whose inhabitants number approximately 2,500.

The Fortress Township Authority now includes three elected members in addition to four nominated official and three nominated unofficial members. At the 1951 elections two Arabs and one Pakistani, who unfortunately died during the period of his service, were elected. At the by-election an Arab newspaper editor was elected. Both the general and the by-election passed off without incident.

The qualifications for a voter are Aden or British birth and two years' residence, or foreign birth and five years' residence. In addition a voter must be a male of over twenty-one years and own property worth *Sh.*1,500, or pay rent of *Sh.*18 a month, or have an income *Sh.*200 a month. A candidate must be of Aden or British birth and possess the qualifications of a voter. At the 1951 elections the electoral roll for the Fortress Township contained the names of 4,930 persons. In the Sheikh Othman Township Authority area the people are not so developed politically and a fully nominated Authority is retained with three officials, one Arab resident and one European resident as members.

The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings to superintend various services of a municipal character, such as control of markets, the maintenance of public health and sanitary services, the maintenance and improvement of roads, the provision of recreation facilities and the control of building operations.

5: Harrison D-4 (1912-1924) 1924 MI Middle East
Aden MM1

361

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facing p 178

65:Landshut S-4 (no date)1950 M1 Middle East
Aden MM1

fewer. Be that as it may, of the total only 4,700 belonged to the original Jewish community of Aden: the rest—about 3,800—were Yemeni Jews in transit to Palestine. On arrival in Aden, after a most hazardous journey across the desert, the Yemeni emigrants were usually destitute and in a complete state of exhaustion.

Formerly they used to be quartered either in the Jewish part of the Crater district of the town or in the Jewish quarter of Sheikh 'Othman, about eight miles inland from the Crater. More recently, so much has their number increased, that a separate camp, known as Hashad camp, was for a time set up for them a mile and a half from Sheikh 'Othman. The Hashad camp, which has now been replaced by another—made available by the Aden Government—was subsidised by the Joint Distribution Committee and directed by a woman physician (a remarkable woman in many ways), Dr. Olga Feinberg.

Many of the Yemeni Jews in Aden are employed as coolies, casual labourers and hawkers, a number dwelling in the Coolie Lines and in caves in the rocks. The rest are mainly craftsmen (as they were in Yemen)—gold- and silversmiths, weavers, carders, thatchers, and so forth.

The Jewish community of Aden proper, numbering until recently between 4,000 and 5,000, is centred in the Crater, where Jewish shops, many of them in the Suq, are mingled with those of Muslims, Hindus, and Parsees. A few of the wealthier Jewish merchants have shops in the Steamer Point district, where the Government offices and better-class shops are situated.

Thanks to the generosity of the Menahem Messa family, until the riots, the community had a large and well-equipped school and a spacious new synagogue. In addition, there was another somewhat smaller school. Owing to the lack of qualified teachers, however, the standard of education is low. The new and richly decorated synagogue was also used as a kind of clubhouse, and was an habitual rendezvous when services were not in progress.

The relations between the old Jewish community of Aden and the Muslims used to be tolerably good. But the growing influx of Yemeni Jews led to the development of a certain degree of tension between them and the Muslim coolies, many of whom—incidentally—are themselves of Yemeni origin. It is also likely that inflammatory nationalist broadcasts from Egypt and other Arab stations in the Middle East, blaring out daily through loudspeakers in Aden cafés, have played their part in stirring up anti-Jewish feeling.

Following the appeal of the Arab League for a three-day protest strike against the decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine, an anti-Zionist demonstration in Aden developed into a riot. Jewish shops and houses in the Crater and in Sheikh 'Othman were attacked, many being burnt and looted.

From the official report of the Commission of Inquiry, it is evident that the reason why the British authorities were unable to bring the

9: Ingrams G-4 (1934-1944) 1945 MM2 Hadhramaut
Aden MM1

175 hundred houses, and some disjointed remnants of its walls, the rest being occupied by tombs, mounds, and heaps of rubbish, roofless walls of older dwellings, or the wretched habitations of the present residents."

And in 1838 Haines the first Resident said:

"The little village (formerly the great city) of Aden is now reduced to the most exigent condition of poverty and neglect. In the reign of Constantine this town possessed unrivalled celebrity, for its impenetrable fortifications, its flourishing commerce, and the glorious haven it offered to vessels from every quarter of the world. But how lamentable is the present contrast. With scarcely a vestige of its former proud superiority, the traveller sees and values it only for its capabilities, and regrets the barbarous cupidity of that Government, under whose injudicious management it has fallen so low."

In 1877, Captain Hunter, in his description of British Aden, says:

"At present the town of Aden consists of about 2,000 whitewashed houses built of stone and mud, divided into streets and lanes; it is nearly 1,400 yards broad. Many of the houses are double-storied, but none are noteworthy for their architecture. The whole town has been rebuilt since the British occupation. . . .

The only building of any pretension in the Crater is the Court-house and Treasury office; the barracks are commodious but not handsome; the Protestant church, situated on a hill, has some slight claim to honourable mention. The mess-houses of the two regiments stationed in the Crater are substantial and commodious buildings. . . ."

From then on travellers became more frequent, and I quote only Walter B. Harris in 1893:

"What a scene of desolation and dreariness Aden presents to the newcomer! And how soon one gets to like the place in spite of it all! A background of dreary blackish rock, a sandy road, half a dozen rickety gharies under the shelter of a hideous iron-roofing, with sleepy little ponies and still more sleepy Somali drivers; a whitewashed domed saint's tomb, with an apology for a garden on each side, in which a few weary-looking plants were trying to appear green under a thick coating of dust and a sweltering sun; a long crescent of badly (designed) houses, with the exception of the handsome Aden Bank buildings, faced by an expanse of sand and black palings—and that is Steamer Point, as one first sees it."

And Colonel Jacob, in 1923, wrote:

". . . but Aden is still fifty years behind the times. The apathy of Government is visible in this settlement. . . .

"There has been but little system or plan in the erection of buildings. There is scarcely one building in Aden of architectural beauty. An expert once landed and gave us hints, but these have not been carried out."

175 361 What a depressing thought it is that we who have done so much in the East have been guilty of building anything like the modern Aden. You will have gathered from the extracts I have read that we knew well enough what it was like of old, and we knew well enough what beautiful cities the Arabs round us were capable of building. Even if we had merely kept to the lay-out Haines made and encouraged builders from the Yemen and the Hadhramaut to do the rest, we should have had a town with beauty

* [See preceding pages -- Analyst]

9: Ingrams G-4 (1934-1944) 1945 MM2 Hadhramaut : ..
Aden MM

and character and worthy of the grandeur of its setting, even if from a modern point of view is was not a perfect town. What the place needs is a plan for gradual rebuilding, with due regard to the architecture of the region and to its own needs.

For Aden will probably always be an important commercial centre, as it has been since the days of Ezechiel, and it will no doubt always be an imperial fortress. From the former aspect it needs replanning. It is ridiculous, for instance, that goods imported for re-export, such as skins and coffee, should be carried from the harbour up the pass into Aden town and then carried back again after repacking. From a fortress point of view the shoddy buildings of Tarshein and Morbat need replacing with something more worthy. Why, for instance, it is necessary to have pent roofs, the development of a rainy country, in a country where flat roofs are required, is a mystery. But the roofs are a minor matter, the buildings are in themselves and from any point of view hideous.

But it is not of the commercial or military aspects of Aden I wish to speak, nor need I say anything about the government and life of the colony itself. The colony is year by year recovering from the long period during which the declared policy was to consider the garrison as the only part of Aden that mattered, and not to spend money and effort on the people. Since it became a colony, Aden has accumulated substantial surplus balances, and once hostilities are over great development of social services can be undertaken.

But it is of Aden as the potential culture centre of the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden area that I should like to speak. Willy-nilly, since the time of its capture Aden started to play a part in the affairs of its neighbours. Before that time, such contacts as there were with South Arabia were conducted through the Government of Bombay and the Government of Mauritius. Gradually the protectorate was built up, as I have described, the chiefs were entertained, and as the commerce of Aden redeveloped, the town began to be the market of the Western Aden Protectorate, the Yemen and British Somaliland. It is now, alas, regarded as the acme of what the British think good. Aden has in the past been an educational centre despite itself. It just could not help it, because of its geographical position.

It is quite clear that anything Aden has better than its neighbours, must attract the latter to it. In the past the attraction has been mainly trade, though medical facilities have attracted many, and even the wretched education which it offered in the past has been used.

In 1935 a small boarding school for thirty-six selected pupils, mainly the sons of chiefs, was started, and that was the first active attempt to offer something educative to the people of the protectorate. Its avowed object is to help in the production of more enlightened chiefs, and, though roughly it only provides primary schooling, it has done definite good and has become a success.

As soon as the war is over the British Council will be opening what will eventually be a secondary school, mainly for boys from the protectorate and the Yemen, the Lord Lloyd College. Possibly later on it will attain university status.

A 132 scanty and irregular throughout most of the region. At Aden, it averages about 3 to 5 inches a year, and is normally concentrated in the period from December to April. In contrast, the western highlands receive a summer rainfall which reaches 15 to 20 M 132 inches a year in most areas. The precipitation in the Hadhramaut region does not follow a seasonal pattern: it is appreciably lower and often localized in distribution. Torrential thunderstorms sometimes occur, while sandstorms are frequent, especially between May and September.

POPULATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Population

A 161 162 361 The population of the Colony is essentially cosmopolitan and urban in character. According to the last census in 1946, the inhabitants numbered 80,516, including 58,455 Arabs, 7,273 Jews, 4,322 Somalis, 9,456 Indians, 365 Europeans and 645 of other nationalities. Since that date, the population has increased markedly. A 161 167 563 In 1950, it was officially estimated at 100,000, and was generally believed to approach 110,000 to 120,000. The Arabs are mainly immigrants or descendants of immigrants from the Protectorate and Yemen: in 1946, slightly less than one half were registered as Aden-born. Most of the Jewish community has recently migrated to Israel, with the result that a remnant of less than 2,000 Jews remained in 1951.

A 432 162 The Colony consists of two incorporated townships, besides important military installations. The township of Aden, sometimes designated as the Fortress, embraces all the settlements on the Aden peninsula and isthmus. It had over 55,800 inhabitants in 1946, about 36,200 of whom lived in the main town of Crater and 12,000 in the modern harbor sections of Tawahi and Steamer Point. Sheikh Othman, the second township, had about 22,600 residents. It comprises the town itself, situated on an oasis behind the peninsula, several small out-

A 347 of size and construction, the houses usually have flat roofs, which can be utilized during the summer months for sleeping purposes. The increase in population within recent years has led to the growth of settlements of *kutcha* huts, made of reeds, palm leaves or corrugated iron, in the outlying districts.

A 361 362 571 Some of the laborers employed in handling cargo or coal are quartered in barracks, but many live in crude hut settlements in which the sanitary conditions are a menace to both townships. Slum clearance was started in 1943, and housing programs have since been undertaken in Crater and Sheikh Othman. They are financed by the Colonial government and subsidized by grants from the British Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

H 342 361 Stone, mud brick and brushwood are utilized for building purposes in the Protectorate. The type of housing and the character of the villages in different areas are governed by the materials available and the need for making them defensible. Walled settlements predominate, but scattered dwellings surrounded by brushwood stockades are frequent in Western Aden Protectorate. In the towns the larger houses of stone or mud brick have from 3 to 6 stories, with accommodations for the live-

H 342 571 361 stock on the ground floor. In contrast with the elaborate dwellings of the wealthy, the homes of the tribesmen are small and rarely of more than one story. They are typically overcrowded, dark and insanitary, while the animals are often kept in close association with the family. The Bedouin in the interior use the traditional camel-hair tents, but the nomadic tribes and fisherfolk near the coast live in huts of straw, thatched palm or matting.

ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION

Water Supplies

A 312 Water is usually scarce, except in parts of the western highlands which benefit from a heavier rainfall. The main water supply for Aden Colony is derived from 10 deep

63 Simmons et al G-5 (1941-1951) 1964
M1 Middle East

Africa, are found in the coastal area. Numerous species of *Culex* are present, including *C. quinquefasciatus* (— *C. fatigans*), a potential vector of filariasis. A species of *Taeniorhynchus* has been described from Western Aden Protectorate.

Mosquito control measures have been carried on by the health authorities in the Colony for several decades. They involve weekly inspections of all premises to eliminate breeding sites, the protection and the larvicidal treatment of permanent bodies of water, the reclamation of swamps and low-lying lands in the vicinity of the towns, and the supervision of the dhows using the port. The Aedes index was 0.014 per cent in 1950, in contrast with 4 per cent in 1930.

Flies. Flies are abundant in towns and villages, where the insanitary conditions around markets, cattlesheds and dwellings favor prolific breeding. They are most numerous between November and March. The house flies, *Musca domestica* and related species, are ubiquitous and undoubtedly play a role in the spread of intestinal and eye infections. The stable fly, *Stomoxys calcitrans*, is prevalent. Sandflies are numerous, among which *Phlebotomus papatasii* is presumably of primary medical concern. The tsetse fly, *Glossina tachinoides*, was reported early in this century from the Haushabi and the Subeihi tribal districts in Western Aden Protectorate.[9] It has not been collected in recent surveys, however, and the original observations remain the only record of its appearance outside Africa.[39] Campaigns against flies, employing DDT, Gammexane and other insecticidal sprays in markets and public buildings, are undertaken periodically by the health authorities in the two townships of the Colony.

Lice. All forms of human lice are found, particularly among the inhabitants of towns and villages in the interior. *Pediculus humanus corporis* is prevalent in the highland villages, where it is the vector of louse-borne typhus and louse-borne relapsing fever.

Fleas. Both *Xenopsylla cheopis* and *X. astia* parasitize the rats in this region.

A 165 167 854 Nib thorities regard undernutrition and incorrect methods of feeding as important underlying factors. The deaths in infants under 1 year of age totaled 175 in 1950, or about 44 per cent of the known dysentery deaths.

N 164 No precise information is available regarding bacillary and amebic dysentery in the Protectorate, but the high rate of infection among visitors to Aden Colony suggests that both are widespread.

A 164 361 744 Cholera. Cholera has not been reported from Aden within the present century, although outbreaks have followed its introduction in the past. Since no record exists of its presence in the Hadhramaut, it is probable that the disease was largely confined to the port towns.

During the 1947 outbreak in Egypt, traffic through Aden was increased due to the quarantine restrictions imposed on Egyptian ports. Special precautions were taken by the health authorities to prevent the admission of infected individuals or goods by sea, land or air routes. Immunization against cholera was also provided for all persons handling shipping and for all health service personnel.

A 751

N 164 Helminthiases. SCHISTOSOMIASIS. Schistosomiasis is endemic in scattered localities in Western Aden Protectorate, especially in the highland districts above 2,000 feet elevation. Foci of *Schistosoma haematobium* are known to exist in the Jebel Jehaf and Dhala' plateau country, in the Wadi Tiban area around Musemir, and in the vicinity of Ter am Baha, Huwemi and Khor 'Umeira. *S. mansoni* is apparently more restricted in distribution, but it is found in the Jebel Jehaf and the Wadi Tiban regions.

A 164 No locally acquired infections are reported from the Colony, although numerous cases among persons from the interior are treated in the civilian hospitals each year. A large proportion of the cases seen in Aden Colony come from Yemen or from the Dhala and the Musemir districts.

N A 136 The intermediate snail hosts of *S. haematobium* and *S. mansoni* have not been definitely established, but Bulinus and Planor-

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63:Simmons et al G-8 (1961-1951) 1964
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bis snails have been described from some of the affected foci.

ANCYLOSTOMIASIS. Hookworm infection occurs in Lahej and a few agricultural centers in Western Aden Protectorate. *Necator americanus* has been identified in the cases treated at the Civil Hospital in Aden.[20]

OTHER HELMINTH INFECTIONS. Infections with one or more types of intestinal worms are prevalent, particularly among the peoples of the Protectorate. Ascariasis is widespread. Trichuriasis and, to a lesser extent, enterobiasis are common. Hydatid disease is reported among individuals from the Colony and from the interior. Infection with the beef tapeworm, *Taenia saginata*, is enzootic among the cattle in the tribal districts, and human infections are undoubtedly frequent. Cases are occasionally encountered among immigrant families in the Colony. The pork tapeworm, *T. solium*, is rare, but infections are sometimes seen in the Aden hospitals.

Other Infections. *Brucella melitensis* is enzootic amopg the goats in this area, and Malta fever is diagnosed from time to time in the Colony hospitals and dispensaries.

DISEASES SPREAD CHIEFLY THROUGH THE RESPIRATORY TRACT

Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is one of the most prominent diseases affecting the inhabitants of southern Arabia, but no precise information is available, except for Aden Colony. The high degree of undernutrition and overcrowding, and the low standards of personal hygiene and sanitation prevailing among large sections of the population, favor the spread of the infection. The disease is probably prevalent among the women who are confined to close quarters by the *purdah* system and among the young children in close contact with them. In a small tuberculin test survey covering 95 Aden township schoolboys of 7 to 12 years of age, in 1945,[2] positive reactions were obtained in 56 per cent—a rate which ranks high among those usually found in

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urban communities in the Middle East. Pulmonary infections predominate, but other forms of the disease are also observed.

Tuberculosis is widespread in the immigrant populations in Aden, as shown by the fact that 58 to 70 per cent of the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis recorded in the three years 1948-50 were in nonresidents. Among the 530 cases reported in 1950, Aden was the place of origin in 152, Yemen in 193, Western Aden Protectorate in 99, Eastern Aden Protectorate in 12, and Somaliland, India and other countries in the remainder. In the decade 1941-50, the number of deaths attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis ranged from 113 to 261 a year, with peaks of prevalance associated with large migrations of immigrants.

Although tuberculosis has long been regarded as a major cause of sickness and death in the Colony, few facilities for diagnosis and treatment existed before 1945. In that year, the health authorities initiated a campaign for the reduction of tuberculosis in all economic groups of the population. The diagnostic services were reorganised and X-ray equipment provided. Special wards were also added to the civilian hospitals; the number of beds available for the treatment of tuberculosis was increased from 18 in 1945 to 150 in 1951. As a further preventive measure, a program of supervised domiciliary treatment was introduced in 1947 to furnish care to persons who could not be hospitalized.

Following the organization of the antituberculosis campaign, there was a decrease in the specific death rates from around 29.3 per 10,000 population in the period 1931-44 to 11.3 in 1950. In the latter year, the corrected rate for the local population alone was 8.4 per 10,000. A tuberculin testing and BCG inoculation program was planned for 1952 by the Medical and Health Department, in co-operation with the World Health Organization.

Smallpox. In spite of the fact that localized epidemics of smallpox are recurrent in the Protectorate, no outbreaks have been

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Diseases Spread by Arthropods

Malaria. Little or no indigenous malaria exists at present in the Colony. From 1,000 to 2,000 malaria patients are treated each year in the civilian hospitals and dispensaries, but, with the exception of occasional cases of questionable origin, the infection has almost invariably been acquired outside the limits of the Colony, usually in the interior. Until recent decades, malaria was highly endemic in the oasis of Sheikh Othman and surrounding villages, and sporadic outbreaks were experienced in the town of Aden. Anopheline control work was initiated in 1909 and extended on a colony-wide basis in the 1930s. As a result, the disease was early eliminated from Aden, while its prevalence was progressively reduced in Sheikh Othman. The number of local cases treated at the Keith Falconer Mission Hospital declined from almost 2,000 a year in 1907 to zero in 1950. The last outbreak of malaria was recorded in 1943 among the transient laborers living in *kutcha* hut settlements in Sheikh Othman. At that time, *Anopheles adenensis* (— *A. culicifacies adenensis*), the principal vector, was found breeding in the soakpits. Antianopheline measures are carried on continuously in the Colony and adjacent sections of the Protectorate, and vector species have been eradicated almost completely.

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Malaria occurs in most portions of the Protectorate, exclusive of the desert regions and the mountainous areas at the higher elevations. In the 1939-40 survey of Western Aden Protectorate, all gradations of endemicity were encountered. In general, the infection was hyperendemic in the vicinity of perennial streams and moderately endemic in villages around wadies which remained dry for most of the year. The splenic index ranged from 40 to 92 per cent in different localities. Extensive epidemics have been recorded from the highland districts, especially from the Dhala' and the Yafa'i country. Both *Plasmodium falcip-*

N 164 H 164 136

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year for evidence of plague. The disease has not been reported from the Protectorate.

Other Infections. Localized outbreaks of louse-borne relapsing fever have been recorded from the Protectorate, but no indigenous cases have been encountered in Aden. Cases of relapsing fever were frequently discovered at the time of the typhus outbreaks in 1944-45.

Occasional cases of kala-azar are seen in the Colony hospitals, usually among immigrants from Yemen. Two cases, in which the diagnosis of kala-azar was confirmed by spleen puncture, were recently reported from the Civil Hospital.[10] Both originated in southern Yemen, one from the vicinity of Ta'izz and the other from a village near the border of Western Aden Protectorate. Sporadic cases of Oriental sore are also treated in Aden, but the extent of infection in the interior is uncertain.

Cases suspected of being sandfly fever are common. The vector, *Phlebotomus papatasii*, is widely distributed. Guinea worm infection is endemic in the Hadhramaut and in certain coastal districts in the Protectorate. Imported cases are often observed in Aden Colony. Travelers from endemic centers in Africa thought to be suffering from yellow fever are sometimes admitted to the Colony hospitals, but no indigenous cases have been reported.

Nutritional Diseases

Undernutrition is prevalent, particularly among the immigrant laborers in Aden and the poorer villagers and the Bedouin in the interior. Few studies of the prevalence of nutritional diseases have been made, but, in view of the inadequate diet of large sections of the population, deficiency conditions are probably numerous, particularly as regards protein and vitamins C, A and riboflavin of the B complex. Rickets is common in the Protectorate, while minor symptoms of the disease were detected in 17 per cent of 264 schoolchildren examined in Aden township in 1945. Spongy gums, gingivitis and other signs of vitamin C de-